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Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES:VLV
APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES
CAB - DFARMER (SUB)
ARA/AND/V - WSERGEANT
DOT - RAYOUNG (SUB)
----------053610 092030Z /73
O 092022Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, VE

SUBJECT: BILATERAL CIVAIR ISSUES

REF: CARACAS 4208 AND 4243; STYLES-OLSEN TELECON

1. IF EMBASSY CANNOT RESOLVE ISSUE BASED ON MERITS OF ISSUE, BEST WAY OUT OF SITUATION IS PERSUADE VENEZUELANS ALLOW PAN AM CONTINUE ITS FLIGHTS BEYOND CARACAS PENDING EARLY CONSULTATIONS.

2. EMBASSY MAY THEREFORE MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. USG REGRETS VENEZUELA IS CONSIDERING ACTING UNILATERALLY AGAINST PAN AM FLIGHTS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE VENEZUELANS BELIEVE US HAS ACTED UNILATERALLY IN TARIFF
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DISPUTES, ITS THREATENED ACTIONS IN THIS CASE WOULD HAVE THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF DEPRIVING US OF ROUTE RIGHTS IT HAS UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT AIR SERVICE BEYOND CARACAS TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, WHICH IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM DISAPPROVALS OF TARIFFS.

B. VENEZUELA WAS GIVEN PRIOR NOTICE OF SCHEDULE CHANGE

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PURSUANT TO INTBRGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND DID NOT INDI-
CATE ANY DIFFICULTY UNTIL AFTER THE FACT.

C. US BELIEVES PAN AM OPERATIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH 1976
MEMORANDUM SINCE OVERALL SERVICES BEYOND VENEZUELA HAVE
NOT BEEN INCREASED. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE COULD
BE A QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION. APPROPRIATE WAY TO
PROCEED IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, IS TO CONSULT TO
REACH AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION, RATHER THAN TO ACT
UNILATERALLY.

D. US THEREFORE PREPARED HOLD CONSULTATIONS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE ON UNDERSTANDING THAT, IN MEANTIME, EXISTING
PAN AM OPERATIONS BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

E. US PREPARED HOLD CONSULTATIONS DURING WEEK OF MAY 30-
JUNE 2. (MAY 29 IS HOLIDAY.) ALTHOUGH LESS CONVENIENT
TALKS COULD BE HELD INSTEAD DURING WEEK OF MAY 22-26. WE
WOULD PREFER MEET IN WASHINGTON, BUT COULD DO SO IN
CARACAS IF DESIRED BY VENEZUELANS. OTHER ITEMS, SUCH AS
TARIFFS, BRIEFING ON US AVIATION POLICY, ETC. WOULD ALSO
BE DISCUSSED.

3. IF VENEZUELANS AGREE TO CONSULTATIONS BUT DEMAND THAT
PAN AM CEASE BUENOS AIRES FLIGHTS IN INTERIM, EMBASSY
SHOULD PRESS, IF NECESSARY AT HIGHER LEVELS, TO REVERSE
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THIS POSITION ON GROUNDS THAT IT IS UNREASONABLE GIVEN
US WILLINGNESS CONSULT PROMPTLY, FACT PRIOR NOTICE GIVEN
VENEZUELANS, AND FACT THAT VENEZUELAN ACTION WILL HAVE
PRACTICAL EFFECT OF PREVENTING PAN AM FROM CONDUCTING ANY
CARACAS-BUENOS AIRES OPERATION (FOR WHICH IT HAS ROUTE
RIGHTS UNDER BILATERAL). IF VENEZUELANS REFUSE, EMBASSY
MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, POINT OUT THAT VENEZUELAN STANCE
COULD LEAD TO CONSIDERATION OF COUNTERMEASURES BY US
AUTHORITIES. VANCE

NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: EAIR, VE, US, PANAM
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